

09/744,160

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 15 as follows.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-14 (Withdrawn)

15. (Currently amended) A bearing structure having a hydrodynamic gas bearing, comprising:

fixed components; and

rotatable components which are supported by the fixed components for rotation,

wherein the fixed components and the rotatable components are kept in a non-contact state during rotation of the rotatable components by means of hydrodynamic gas pressure generated at both a radial bearing portion and a thrust bearing portion,

the bearing structure further comprising a conductive structure having a magnetic fluid for electrically connecting the fixed components and the rotatable components either in the region where there is no gas flow generated by suction or discharge of a gas for generating hydrodynamic pressure at the hydrodynamic gas bearing portion, or in the region where the gas flow is negligible.

16. (Original) A spindle motor having the bearing structure according to claim 15.

17. (Original) A hard disk drive having the spindle motor according to claim 16.

Claims 18-26 (Withdrawn)